

## Camp Striker becomes 'No-Spin Zone'

By **Spc. Chris McCann,**  
**2-10 Mtn. Public Affairs**

CAMP STRIKER, Iraq -  
In a war that has perhaps been

even hotter in debates than it is  
on the streets of Baghdad, the  
one constant in the media has  
been "spin."

It was fitting, then, that

Bill O'Reilly, host of the Fox  
News talk show "The O'Reilly  
Factor" - dubbed the 'No Spin  
Zone' - came to the Camp  
Striker dining facility Dec. 15.

O'Reilly visited the  
Soldiers of the 2nd Brigade  
Combat Team, 10th Mountain  
Division (Light Infantry) and  
other units at the Baghdad base  
camp to thank them for their  
service, he said.

"I came to see the Soldiers  
and say thanks to all the  
forces," he said. "That's our pri-  
mary purpose over here."

O'Reilly had lunch at the  
dining facility, greeting  
Soldiers and civilians alike  
before signing autographs.

He posed for photographs  
with Soldiers, as well.

Sgt. 1st Class Vivienne

Pacquette a supply sergeant for  
the 2nd BCT, had the opportu-  
nity to speak to O'Reilly.

"He was very down-to-  
earth," she said.

"I asked him why he'd  
come, and I was impressed that  
he said it was just to say thanks.  
It's great to see a person of that  
stature to have such passion for  
the troops," Pacquette said.

O'Reilly said that he found  
the experience a little different  
than he'd expected.

"The camp is interesting,"  
he said. "I'm impressed with  
the organization here - the  
camp is a lot bigger than I  
expected."

"It's my privilege to come  
and say 'Hello,'" O'Reilly  
added. "I hope everyone stays  
safe."



(Photo by Spc. Chris McCann, 2-10t Mtn. Public Affairs)

**Sgt. 1st Class Vivienne Pacquette talks with talk-show  
host Bill O'Reilly at the Camp Striker dining facility**

## 'First Team' Medics Train Iraqi Police

By **Pfc. Ben Fox**  
**3-1st Cav. Public Affairs**

BAQUBAH, Iraq - The combat life-  
saver course is a common course for  
Soldiers to take.

It is taught by combat medics and cov-  
ers a wide array of simple, yet effective,  
techniques Soldiers can use to keep  
wounded warriors alive until further help  
arrives.

This same course was taught to Iraqi  
Police in Baqubah, Iraq, Nov. 28 and 30 by  
combat medics from the 3rd Brigade  
Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

"I've done CLS classes before, but this  
is a whole different ballgame," said Spc.  
Courtney Morris, Medical Company C,  
215th Brigade Support Battalion.

Back at Fort Hood, Morris said teach-  
ing the class was easy since her students  
understood the language she was speaking

and could relate to her culturally.

Here, Morris, admitted the language  
and cultural barriers were hard to get past.

To get through the barrier, Sgt. Darrell  
Crews, another medic who taught the class,  
said he used visual aids and spoke through  
an interpreter.

"As long as they are willing to listen  
and understand, I am more than happy to  
work with them," said Crews.

The medics taught the IP members  
several procedures.

Learning these techniques will help  
save more lives of the IPs who are often hit  
hard in Iraq, said Crews.

"You can give a man a fish and feed  
him for a day, or you can teach a man to  
fish and feed him for a lifetime," Morris  
said, referring to the old saying.

"We want them to be able to take care  
of themselves when we aren't around," she  
said.



(Photo by Pfc. Ben Fox, 3-1 Cav. Div. Public Affairs)

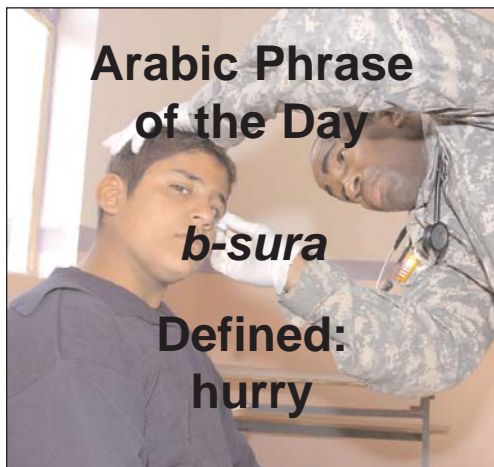
**During a combat lifesaver course for  
Iraqi Police, Spc. Courtney Morris,  
teaches Iraqi Policemen how to  
properly apply a bandage in  
Baqubah, Iraq, Nov. 28.**



(Photo by Sgt. Cheryl Cox, 1st BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs)

## A Soldier's Soothing Touch

Pfc. James Byington, a medic with Company D, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, applies cream to burn scars on the face of a young girl at the Qadaa Building in Tarmiyah, Iraq, Dec. 9. After Byington applied the cream the mother applied some of the cream to more scarring on the girls abdomen.



Arabic Phrase  
of the Day

*b-sura*

Defined:  
hurry

## Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today

High: 63  
Low: 37



Tomorrow

High: 66  
Low: 31



Sunday

High: 68  
Low: 33

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# Close quarter conversations

## Civil affairs troops use words as their weapon of choice

By Spc. L.B. Edgar,  
7th MPAD

CAMP RUSTAMIYAH, Iraq - These Soldiers do not attack the enemy with their M-16s, but rather their communication skills.

Though not combat-arms Soldiers, they are commonly found on dismounted patrols throughout the city of Baghdad interacting with its residents. They are civil affairs Soldiers serving on the frontlines of the Global War on Terrorism.

Civil Affairs Team C, 489th CA Battalion, is on a daily mission to assist the Iraqi

people improve their infrastructure and local government.

This four-man team is attached to 3rd Squadron, 61st Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division. Their mission takes them throughout Iraq, where they encounter the local population where they live, said Capt. Chris Boyer, the team leader.

"We're the guys who try to make the local populace less of a hindrance to the maneuver commander. We're the ones who work 'in' the people," said the native of Warren, Mich. "Maneuver commanders work

in battle space, on terrain and (determining) how you defeat the enemy. We work more on how to gain the trust and confidence of the local populace; how do we make those people not a hindrance to the commander?"

Far from being gift-bearing Soldiers, as they are commonly portrayed, CA Soldiers work to empower people in the community to resolve their own problems, said Sgt. David Britton, another team member.

"The biggest misconception right now is that we're here just to give out stuff. That's really not what we're doing

here," the native of Knoxville, Tenn., said. "(The Iraqi citizens) really, really want to rely on us for everything. It's just really, really hard to get across to them that we can't give them everything. They need to do stuff on their own."

Historically, people are accustomed to receiving goods and services, said Staff Sgt. Erik Decker, another civil affairs noncommissioned officer with the team.

"We're trying to take 30 years of socialism and reintroduce them to democracy as we know it, but on their terms," said the native of Wolcott, N.Y. "CA, in general, is trying to support the local infrastructure and government. Whether it be the (local council), the (district council), all the way up to the federal government."

"When we roll into an area, the number one thing CA does is assess stuff. In terms of a city you're going to look at its water, sewage, trash, electricity, medical (services) and administration. You're going to look at all the major things, which run a city," Boyer said. "What it all comes down to is just making a better way of life that can stand on its own. So we can go home. That's the number one thing."

To achieve a democratic Iraq, CA Soldiers put their boots on the ground almost daily, which is something they find rewarding, Boyer said.

"The greatest thing about CA is you're constantly with Soldiers," Boyer said. "I'm out on patrol five or six days a week. You're out there seeing the great things Soldiers do."



(Photo by Spc. L.B. Edgar, 7th MPAD)

**Staff Sgt. Erik Decker, a member of Team C, 489th CA Battalion, talks with an Iraqi policeman near Camp Rustamiyah, Iraq. Decker's team was on a mission to meet with a local committee trying to improve its local government and local infrastructure.**

# IA rounds up insurgents

**Sgt. Armando Monroig**  
**5th MPAD**

BAQUBAH, Iraq - The Iraqi Army led a recent offensive operation in Baqubah, Iraq, which yielded 10 suspected insurgents and rescued a kidnapped 16-year-old Iraqi boy being held for a \$150,000 ransom.

The U.S. Army's 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, from Fort Hood, Texas, cordoned off several of the city's neighborhoods while units of the 5th Iraqi army conducted the search.

Maj. Kalil Malek Ahmad, commander of 4th Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army, said his Soldiers were able to identify insurgents with the help of intelligence sources.

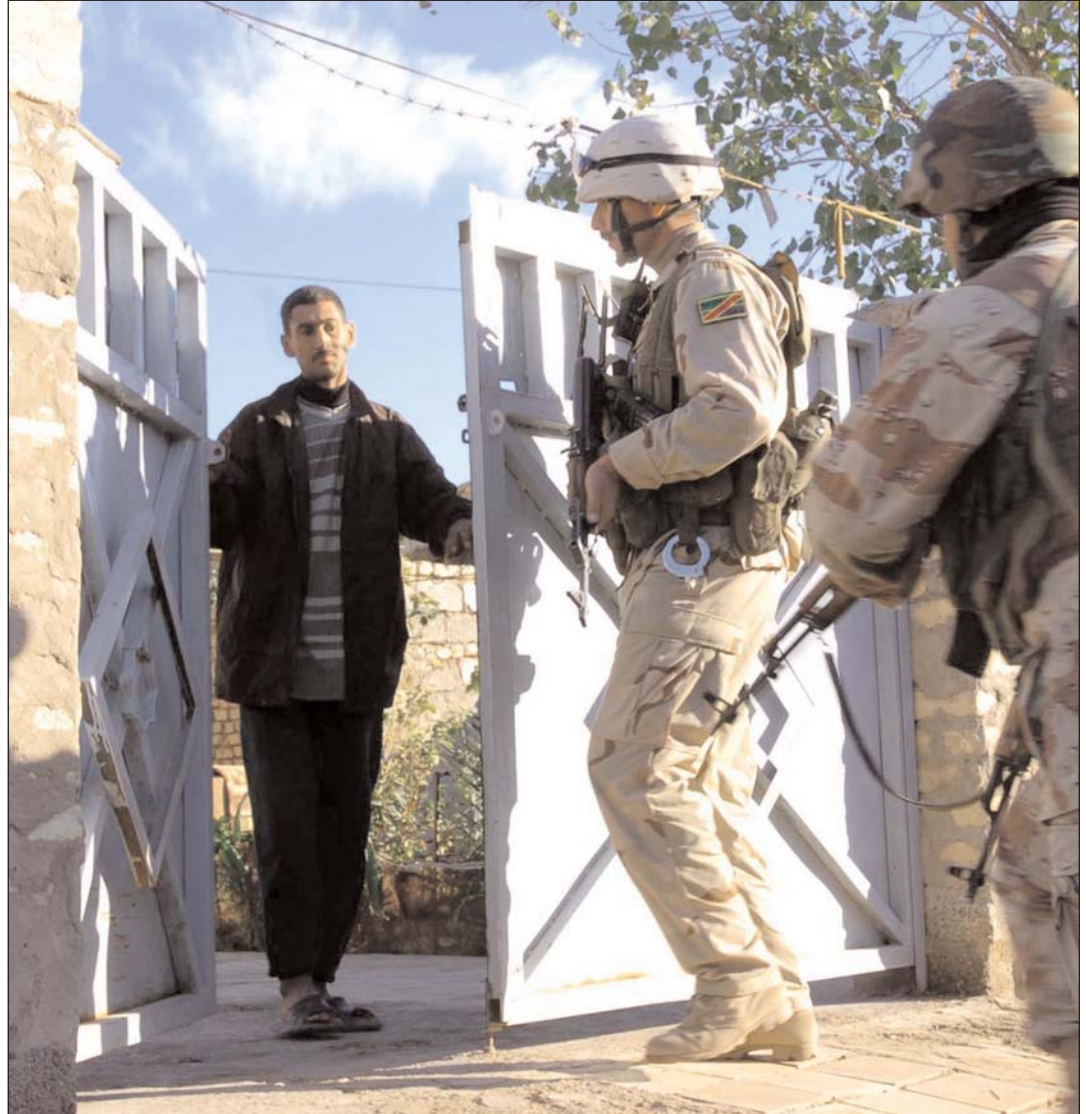
Lt. Col. Morris Goins, the commander of 3rd Brigade's 1-12 Combined Arms Battalion, which provided the cordon for the search, said the operation gave the Iraqi army an opportunity to demonstrate its capability to play a primary role in military operations.

"Iraq is a sovereign nation. They have an Iraqi police department. They have an Iraqi Army," said Goins, a native of Southern Pines, N.C.

"It's important for them to conduct these operations. They are in the lead and we assist when needed," he added.

This most recent search for insurgents, which is part of a larger effort, will help local residents by "driving a wedge between the Iraqi people and Al Qaeda," said Goins.

Al Qaeda operatives have been attempting to disrupt coalition forces and have been threatening local residents in



(Photo by Sgt. Armando Monroig, 5 MPAD)

**Soldiers from 4th Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division speak with a Baqubah resident before entering and searching his home during a massive cordon and search operation conducted Dec. 2.**

the neighborhoods of Khatoon and Mufrek, he said.

Capt. Scott Steele, a member of the U.S. Army's military training team in Baqubah, and a native of Faripault, Minn., said it is important for the Iraqi Army to lead such operations until they can be conducted entirely on their own.

"If the Iraqis take over, the

United States can leave," he said. "We're just helping them along so that they can secure their own country by themselves."

Goins said his unit was presented with some challenges while working with the Iraq's army, such as language barriers and differences in communications platforms, but those

obstacles were overcome with prior coordination.

"As with any brand new government, you have challenges," said Goins.

"People often think the United States was born yesterday. It'll take a little while. There's a lot of promise here. The work is hard but it's good," he added.